

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-21, and 23-26 are pending. Claims 12 and 22 are cancelled, and claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 13, 14, 16-17, 19-21, 24, and 26 are amended herein.

Rejections

The claims have been previously rejected over US Patent No. 5,214,702 to Fischer and over the combination of US Patent No. 5,774,552 to Grimmer and US Patent No. 6,215,872 to Van Oorschot under 35 USC 103(a). The present claims are not taught nor suggested by the previously cited references, and thus Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior rejections and request allowance of the pending claims.

In particular, claim 1 provides a method comprising reading from a software module a set of keys associated with a trusted source, wherein the set of keys is embedded in the software module. The method further provides for assigning a key a trusted status if the key is not on a list of compromised keys and the key is traceable to the set of keys embedded in the software module. The previously cited references do not provide all the features of claim 1, individually or in combination.

Notably, prior arguments have addressed the fact that the set of keys is embedded in the software module. The language has been amended herein to clarify this relationship, as it appears to have been interpreted differently by the Examiner.

With respect to Fischer, the Examiner has cited distinct operations to reject the “reading” operation of claim 1. Claim 1 indicates that the “reading” of a set of keys is “from a software module” and the set of keys is “embedded in the software module”. However, the Examiner cites to a generic reading operation unrelated to reading a set of keys, and cites to a separate embedding operation in which the set of keys are embedded within a digital certificate. Such a teaching clearly does not provide for the specific “reading” operation as recited in claim 1.

As a result of the clarifying amendments to claim 1, in conjunction with the additional recited features of the claim, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 8, 13, 17, 20, and 24 contain language that is similar to that of claim 1. Claims 8, 13, 17, 20, and 24 are thus patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

2, 4-7, 9-11, 14-19, 21, 23, and 25-26 are dependent on claims 1, 8, 13, 17, 20, or 24 and are thus patentable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, claims 1-2, 4-11, 13-21, and 23-26 are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 796-2488.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 06/11/2007

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